

REMARKS

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 28, 29 and 31 were said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and if claim 31 were amended to overcome the § 112 rejection.

In accordance therewith, claim 28 is presently amended to independent form including the subject matter of prior claim 26.

Claim 29 depends from amended claim 28.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 30, and to depend from claim 28 (and thereby include the subject matter of prior claim 26). This amendment, also provides antecedent basis for "the through paths", thereby overcoming the § 112 rejection.

Thus, independent claim 28, and dependent claims 29, 31 and 35 which depend from claim 28, are all believed to be in condition for allowance.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-14, 16-17, 20-23, 25-26, 30 and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito (JP 08-008065).

By this amendment, independent claim 1 is amended. Claims 2-16 depend from claim 1. The remaining claims either depend upon allowed claim 28, or have been canceled.

Applicant submits herewith a machine assisted translation of the Ito reference, which Applicant has had prepared. Ito discloses a thin film EL element which is said to be easy to see even in a bright room by reducing the external light reflectivity of the

back electrode. However, Ito discloses oxides and nitrides of only a limited list of metals. Paragraph 19 discloses oxides and nitrides of Mg, In, Ga, Te, Ta, Ni and Fe/Mn for use as the "black layer" material. Paragraphs 52 and 54 disclose oxides of Mg, Al, In, and Cr for use in an inorganic EL device. Each of these metals has a work function of at least 3.66 eV, as can be seen with reference to Table III of the enclosed article: Journal of Applied Physics, volume 48, no. 11, pages 4729-4733 (November 1977).

In contrast, Applicant's amended claim 1 recites "a fluoride or oxide of a metal having a work function of 3.5 eV or less". Support for this claim language is found on page 3, first full paragraph of Applicant's specification.

Claim 1 is thus novel over Ito. Further, claim 1 is believed to be non-obvious over Ito in that the present Applicants have found that the presence of low work function metal ions in a layer of a light-emissive device improves the efficiency of the device (see page 2 of the specification, lines 3-4). There is no disclosure or suggestion of this effect in Ito, and it would therefore not have been obvious to the skilled person to replace the metals disclosed in Ito with metals having work functions of less than 3.5 eV.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to be patentable over Ito. Consequently, dependent claims 2-16, which depend on claim 1 are also novel and not obvious.

Claims 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (EPO 430,041 A1). Claims 25-27 have been canceled.

Claims 15, 24 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito in view of Hosokawa (JP 08-222,374). Claim 24 has been canceled. Claim 35 has been amended to depend from previously held allowable claim 28. The remaining claim 15, depends from presently amended claim 1. For the

reasons set forth above, Ito fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 1. Hosokawa does not cure the deficiencies of Ito, and thus claim 15 is believed to be allowable over the combination of Ito and Hosokawa.

Claims 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ito in view of Dodabalapur (5674636). Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled.

Some minor amendments were made to claims 13-16 and 35 to correct the antecedent basis.

Thus, all of the present claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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